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ABSTRACT

The Educational Programs and Studies Information Service (EPSIS) processed and analyzed 1888 Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) computer searches requested by New York State educators. New York State agencies and the Albany capital district used the computer search most heavily. Local educational agency personnel formed the largest user group. Administrators in elementary and secondary schools were the top users in three-fourths of the regions in New York. New York State Department of Education requests were primarily for the Office of Instructional Services. Purposes for computer searches were evenly spread across regions in the state: Administrators searched for more information on program development, and state education officials searched for information on administrative planning most frequently. (CH)

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Analysis of ERIC Computer Search Requests Processed by the Educational Programs and Studies Information Service (EPSIS) Unit during the Period of September 1975 through April 1976

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June 1976

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Preface

The efficient organization and delivery of educational information for use by those seeking to improve programmatic or curricular offerings in local schools is a relatively new but fast growing educational service area.

In New York State the capability for computer searches of the ERIC file was initiated just two years ago. Since that time local educator demands for this service have grown at a rate of approximately 5 per cent per month. The current request rate stands at approximately 3600 ERIC computer search requests per year.

This analysis demonstrates that not only is information being utilized by New York State educators for school district purposes, but also provides regional and State administrators with a valuable means for determining what issues are of concern to educators. The latter outcome, which is, in reality, information about information use, enables state and regional staff to identify emerging issues and undertake activities which might serve educators' needs on a proactive level. In short, this analysis is a programmatic needs assessment technique as well as a means for determining the status of information system operations.

We are hopeful that the regional information and the information presented by State Education Department unit area of responsibility serves as either reinforcement for current efforts or stimulates activities in areas evidenced to be of high concern.

Gregory Benson
Coordinator
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Studies Information Service

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HIGHLIGHTS

The following information is an analysis of 1888 ERIC computer searches processed by EPSIS during the period September 1975 through April 1976. The analysis yielded the following highlights.

1) Outside of use by State Agency Staff (325 requests), the service was most heavily used in the Capital District region (286 requests) followed closely by the Central-Western region (272 requests) and New York City (248 requests).

2) The largest group of users consist of local educational agency personnel (56.4%) followed by college level users (22.2%), and State Agency Staff (17.2%).

3) Exclusive of use by State Agency Staff (325 requests), 55.9% of all remaining requests were made by local educational agency personnel for the purposes of administrative planning, program development, curriculum development, classroom instruction, evaluation, or personal/professional development. An additional 9.9% of the remaining requests were made by this same group for the purpose of college course work.

4) Most searches requested (48.4%) did not require any specific grade leveling. An additional 17.5% of the requests required elementary school information and 14.4% required secondary school information. (It should be noted again that grade leveling was used

by EPSIS primarily for narrowing search results. Where the results were too small when specific grade levels were used, EPSIS broadened the search and increased results by dropping the grade level delimiter.)

5) Within the State Education Department, 34.2% of all requests could be identified with the functions of the Office of Instructional Services. Other offices with function related requests include the Office of Research, Planning and Evaluation (20.7%), the Office of Educational Finance, Management, and School Services (15.0%) and the Division for Handicapped Children Services (12.2%).

6) Administrators (K-12) were the top users in 8 out of 12 reporting New York State regions exclusive of State Agency Staff. Classroom teachers were the top users in 3 of the remaining 4 regions.

7) Top ranked purposes were evenly spread across regions. College course work ranked first in 4 of 12 reporting regions exclusive of State Agency Staff. Curriculum development ranked first in 3 reporting regions. Administrative planning and program development ranked first in 2 regions each.

8) Program development was ranked in the top 3 purposes by all users except one. Classroom teachers ranked program development fourth.

9) In relating searches to the functions of major State Education Department offices, it was found that administrative planning was ranked in the top three purposes in 11 of 12 office related instances.

INTRODUCTION

The information in this document is an analysis of 1888 ERIC computer searches requested by New York State educators and processed by the Educational Programs and Studies Information Service (EPSIS) during the period of September 1975 through April 1976. It is also the first time the information has been computer generated. Such computer generation has enabled EPSIS to provide not only single category analysis, but two and three dimensional cross category analysis as well.

The period of analysis is shorter than a calendar year and shorter than a school year for a number of reasons. First, EPSIS instituted the use of a revised search request form in September 1975. Forms used previous to that date were not computerized. Second, EPSIS wanted to pilot test the computer analysis capability as soon as there was a large enough sample of requests and at a time that was convenient to staff members who were otherwise involved in more urgent projects. Third, the analysis needed to be done in time to make any revisions, adjustments, and plans necessary to be ready for the next school year beginning in September 1976.

I. Individual Category Analysis

A. Region

EPSIS provides ERIC computer search service to New York State educators through a statewide network of regional contact persons. The contacts are in the employ of local or intermediate administrative units and are not financially reimbursed by the State Education Department for delivering EPSIS services. However, the chief administrators in the regions involved consider EPSIS services of sufficient worth to their respective schools and school districts to commit the time of one of their staff members to working cooperatively with EPSIS staff in facilitating regional service delivery.

Since some regions have more than one contact, each contact has been assigned a code number to assist EPSIS in the processing of search requests. Table I is a tabulation of the number of requests processed by EPSIS for each region during the period September 1975 through April 1976. Since the individual identities of contact persons are used for internal control purposes and are not relevant for analysis purposes, only their respective code numbers are listed.

As Table I indicates, State Agency staff comprise the largest user group on a geographic basis (25.4% of State total). Ease of access may be the major contributing factor in this case. Since EPSIS is physically located

Table I

REGION

Region (Total Requests)	Contact Code	Code Requests	% of Region Total	% of State Total
Capital District (286)	01	176	61.5	9.3
	14	8	2.7	0.4
	16	15	5.1	0.8
	18	27	9.2	0.1
	26	62	21.5	3.3
	31	0	----	---
Central (62)	02	55	88.7	2.9
	21	7	11.3	0.4
Central-Western (272)	03	272	100.0	14.4
Lower Hudson (40)	04	14	35.0	0.7
	05	15	37.5	0.8
	22	11	27.5	0.6
Mid-Hudson (772)	23	84	75.0	4.5
	25	28	25.0	1.5
Mohawk (58)	06	41	70.7	2.2
	24	17	29.3	0.9
Nassau (104)	07	104	100.0	5.5
New York City (248)	08	151	60.9	8.0
	17	30	12.1	1.6
	19	18	7.3	0.9
	32	49	19.7	2.6
Northeast (No Requests submitted)	09	--	----	---
Ontario-East (7)	10	7	100.0	0.4
Southern Tier (79)	11	79	100.0	4.2
	13	0	---	---
Suffolk (31)	12	31	100.0	1.6
Western (93)	15	9	9.7	0.5
	27	26	28.0	1.4
	28	38	40.8	2.0
	29	15	16.1	0.8
	30	5	5.4	0.3
State Agency Staff and Others (496)	20	479	96.6	25.4
	99	17	3.4	0.9
		1888		

within the State Education Department, it can provide same day or next day turnaround time for other employees within the Department. However, it should be mentioned that the primary function of EPSIS is to publicize and deliver its own services. Field contacts working in a voluntary cooperative relationship with EPSIS are under no obligation to over-burden themselves by pushing EPSIS service to the point of its interfering with their obligations to their own local employers. It is, in fact, a credit to all of the EPSIS regional contacts that they have been able to maintain delivery of the computer search service in spite of increasing local committments and responsibilities.

The differences in the number of requests submitted by region and by contact is due to a number of factors such as 1) density of population; 2) geographic size of region being served; and 3) variation in the activeness of the contacts in publicizing service.

B. User

Table II is a tabulation of requests submitted by the contact person's user. Every effort is made to ensure that a user is properly identified and is the final user of the information. However, there may be cases, for instance, where a user identified as an administrator has requested a search for a teacher and has not indicated this to the contact person. This in no way detracts from the fact that over 80% of all requests processed by EPSIS are for local school or school district personnel.

The top two users, classroom teachers and administrators (K-12), comprise 43.5% of all users of the service. This is a positive sign considering the current EPSIS efforts to develop two new ERIC compatible databases under a National Institute of Education Grant. It is anticipated that the nature of the information contained in the new databases (New York State educational program descriptions and teacher developed materials) will be of particular interest to these top two user groups. State Agency Staff (Rank 3) and BOCES Staff (Rank 9) have also expressed considerable interest in the new databases and are working cooperatively with EPSIS in their development.

Most of the requests from college students and faculty (Rank 4 and 5) were from those in schools of education further attesting to the usefulness of ERIC to potential educators in the field of elementary, secondary and continuing education and to teacher educators. Familiarity with ERIC

Table 11

USER

Rank	User	No. Requests	% of Total
1	Classroom Teacher	416	22.0
2	Administrator (K-12)	406	21.5
3	State Agency Staff	325	17.2
4	College Student	257	13.6
5	College Faculty	126	6.7
6	Ancillary Staff	97	5.1
7	BOCES Staff	96	5.1
8	School Librarian	51	2.7
9	College Administrator	36	1.9
10	School Board Member	14	0.7
11	Community Group	11	0.6
	Community Individual	11	0.6
12	Elementary/Secondary School Student	2	0.1
	Other	36	1.9
	No Response	4	0.2
		1888	100.0

before a student leaves college facilitates the negotiating process when the student later makes a computer search request as a teacher, administrator, counselor, etc. The former student user also acts as an EPSIS informer for fellow educators who were previously unaware of EPSIS and ERIC.

C. Purpose

Table III indicates that the primary purpose for which searches were requested was administrative planning. Interestingly, the purpose ranked eighth is evaluation which was the single, most common concern expressed in the last analysis of ERIC computer search requests done by EPSIS (March 1975). The reason for this shift in emphasis may have been due to the fact that the computer analysis was better structured and controlled in terms of the coding of information. However, when considered alone, administrative planning as primary concern is understandable in light of the currently depressed economic situation of education in New York State.

Although college course work is ranked second in Table III, it should be noted that EPSIS makes a distinction between inservice educators taking college course work leading towards permanent New York State certification and full-time college students. This distinction will become clear in the section of cross category analysis dealing with 'USER BY PURPOSE.'

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Table III

PURPOSE

Rank	Purpose	No. Requests	% of Total
1	Administrative Planning	415	22.0
2	College Course Work	409	21.7
3	Program Development	319	16.9
4	Curriculum Development	257	13.6
5	Classroom Instruction	171	9.1
6	Personal/Professional Development	112	5.9
7	Proposal Development	108	5.7
8	Evaluation	6	0.3
		1888	100.0

D. Grade Level

The grade level category was instituted primarily to help EPSIS staff in structuring the computer search logic and to provice a means of narrowing the results if required. The grade level designation is the level of the information requested and not the level of the user. It is possible, therefore, that information bearing the grade level 'secondary school' may have been requested by an elementary school administrator.

The category 'multilevel' indicates that the user was interested in a general search of the field of education. It does not necessarily mean that the user's purpose was general or that the information was not to be used at a more specific grade level.

The level 'continuing education' relates to education beyond high school that is not intended to lead to a degree. Degree related education beyond high school is coded 'higher education.' Although distinctions can be made between such terms as 'continuing education' and 'postsecondary education,' these finer distinctions are not necessary for processing EPSIS search requests.

Table IV

GRADE LEVEL

Rank	Grade Level	No. Requests	% of Total
1	Multilevel	913	48.4
2	Elementary School	330	17.5
3	Secondary School	272	14.4
4	Higher Education	134	7.1
5	Junior High/Middle/Intermediate School	112	5.9
6	Preschool	67	3.5
7	Continuing Education	52	2.8
	(No Response)	8	0.4
		1888	100.0

E. Content

The content code is not assigned by the regional contact. EPSIS uses this field of information on the search form to relate each search to at least one Division, Office, Bureau, or Unit within the State Education Department. This provides EPSIS and other SED offices with a kind of needs assessment device for determining where the pulse is beating the hardest in the body of New York State Education.

Table V indicates that the area of reading is the single most often mentioned topic for information support. The area of education for the handicapped is also a frequently mentioned topic of concern. Both of these needs are currently New York State priorities.

The searches related to the EPSIS Unit are most often requests for research studies which can only be found in EPSIS, or ERIC, but which may still be related to one of the subject content Bureaus. Attempts were made, however to relate a search to an office other than EPSIS whenever possible.

Table V

CONTENT[a]

State Education Department Office (Related Requests)		No. Related Requests	% of Total
Office of Counsel		7	0.4
Office of Higher and Professional Education		77	4.1
Office of Instructional Services		646	34.2
Division of General Education (437)			
Bureau of School Libraries	7		
Bureau of English Education	53		
Bureau of Mathematics Education	53		
Bureau of Social Studies Education	43		
Bureau of Foreign Languages Education	15		
Bureau of Science Education	33		
Bureau of Reading Education	153		
Education for the Gifted Unit	37		
Bilingual Education Unit	38		
Safety Education Unit	5		
Division of Curriculum Development (102)			
Bureau of Elementary Curriculum	21		
Bureau of Secondary Curriculum	27		
Bureau of Occupational & Career Curriculum	25		
Other (Division of Curriculum Development)	29		
Division of School Supervision	23		
Division of the Humanities and the Arts	28		
Division of Physical Education and Recreation	25		
Optional Education Programs	13		
Other (Office of Instructional Services)	18		
Office of Occupational and Continuing Education		85	4.5
Division of Occupational Education Supervision	1		
Division of Special Occupational Services	0		

(a) Offices are arranged as the State Education Department organization existed prior to the Department reorganization of April 1976.

Table V (Continued

CONTENT[a]

State Education Department Office (Related Requests)		No. Related Requests	% of Total
Division of Occupational Education Instruction (33)			
Bureau of Agricultural Education	1		
Bureau of Home Economics Education	8		
Bureau of Business Education	7		
Bureau of Distributive Education	2		
Bureau of Industrial Arts Education	6		
Bureau of Health Occupations Education	6		
Bureau of Trade and Technical Education	4		
Division of Continuing Education	16		
Other (Office of Occupational and Continuing Education)	35		
Division for Handicapped Children Services		230	12.2
Bureau for Mentally Handicapped Children	82		
Section for Emotionally Handicapped Children	16		
Bureau for Physically Handicapped Children	38		
Bureau for Special Programs for the Handicapped	6		
Center for Instructional Materials for Handicapped Children	3		
Other (Division for Handicapped Children Services)	85		
Division of Intercultural Relations in Education		20	1.1
Office of Educational Finance, Management, and School Services		283	15.0
Office of Educational Finance and Management Services (93)			
Division of Educational Finance	7		
Division of Educational Management Services	72		
Division of Educational Facilities Planning	6		
Other (Office of Educational Finance and Management Services)	8		

[a]Offices are arranged as the State Education Department organization existed prior to the Department reorganization of April 1976.

Table V (Continued)

CONTENT[a]

State Education Department Office (Related Requests)		No. Related Requests	% of Total
Office of District Organization and Services	23		
Office of Health, Pupil and Nonpublic School Services			
Office on Nonpublic Schools	1		
Division of Pupil Personnel Services (98)			
Bureau of Guidance	21		
Bureau of Psychological Services	36		
Bureau of Social Services	5		
Other (Division of Pupil Personnel Services)			
Division of Health and Drug Education Services (57)			
Bureau of Drug Education	13		
Bureau of Health Education	32		
Health Services Unit	2		
Other (Division of Health and Drug Education Services	10		
Other (Office of Health, Pupil, and Nonpublic School Services)	4		
Other (Office of Educational Finance, Management and School Services)	7		
Office of Research, Planning and Evaluation		391	20.7
Office of ESC Education Planning			
Division of General Program Planning	5		
Division of ESC Planning - Field Services	2		
Division of Occupational Education Planning	2		
Bureau of Educational Finance Research	1		
Bureau of Educational Communications	17		
Division of Research (322)			
Bureau of School and Cultural Research	6		
Bureau of Occupational Education Research	17		
Educational Programs and Studies Information Service Unit	220		
Bureau of Child Development and Parent Education	66		
Other (Division of Research)	13		

[a]Offices are arranged as the State Education Department organization existed prior to the Department reorganization of April 1976.

Table V (Continued)

CONTENT[a]

State Education Department Office (Related Requests)		No. Related Requests	% of Total
Division of Evaluation (27)			
Bureau of School Programs Evaluation	2		
Bureau of Urban and Community Programs Evaluation	5		
Other (Division of Evaluation)	20		
New York State Computer Services System	3		
Other (Office of ESC Education Planning)	10		
Other (Office of Research, Planning and Evaluation	2		
Office of Elementary, Secondary and Continuing Education Opportunity Programs		25	1.3
Division of Urban Education	14		
Division of Federal Education Opportunity Programs	8		
Bureau of Migrant Education	1		
Other (Office of Elementary, Secondary and Continuing Education Opportunity Programs)	2		
Office of Urban School Services		13	0.7
Office of Cultural Education		62	3.2
Regents Examination and Scholarship Center		38	2.0
Division of Educational Testing			
Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education Testing	7		
Bureau of Higher and Professional Education Testing	0		
Bureau of Pupil Testing and Advisory Services	12		
Other (Division of Educational Testing)	19		
No Response and Other Non-Classifiable		11	0.6
		1888	100.0

[a]Offices are arranged as the State Education Department organization existed prior to the Department reorganization of April 1976.

II. Cross Category Analysis

A. Region by User

Table VI indicates the rank order of users for each of the service regions. Although 17 per cent of the entire State total were searches processed for State agency staff, it should be mentioned that it is usually some individual or agency at the local level that will ultimately benefit from the work done by State agency staff.

In 11 of 13 regions where search service activity was recorded, administrators or teachers were the top ranked user population. These two user groups were ranked one and two in combination in 10 of 13 regions. This again attests to the fact that EPSIS search service is reaching its intended audience in the vast majority of cases.

Table VI

REGION BY USER

Region	Region Total	User	Requests by User	% of Region Total	% of State Total
Capital District	186	Classroom Teacher	125	43.7	6.6
		Administrator (K-12)	47	16.4	2.5
		College Student	36	12.6	1.9
		School Librarian	19	6.6	1.0
		BOCES Staff	17	6.0	0.9
		College Faculty	17	6.0	0.9
		(All Others)	25	8.7	1.3
Central	62	Administrator (K-12)	23	37.1	1.2
		Classroom Teacher	12	19.4	0.6
		Ancillary Staff	11	17.7	0.6
		BOCES Staff	9	14.5	0.5
		(All Ohters)	7	11.3	0.4
Central Western	272	College Student	152	55.9	8.1
		College Faculty	45	16.5	2.4
		College Administrator	21	7.7	1.1
		Classroom Teacher	16	5.9	0.9
		Administrator (K-12)	14	5.2	0.7
		BOCES Staff	7	2.6	0.4
		(All Others)	17	6.2	0.9
Lower Hudson	40	Classroom Teacher	15	37.5	0.8
		Ancillary Staff	8	20.0	0.4
		Administrator (K-12)	6	15.0	0.3
		School Librarian	4	10.0	0.2
		(All Others)	7	17.5	0.4

Table VI (Continued)

REGION BY USER

Region	Region Total	User	Requests by User	% of Region Total	% of State Total
Mid Hudson	112	Administrator (K-12)	54	48.2	2.9
		Classroom Teacher	24	21.4	1.3
		School Librarian	15	13.4	0.8
		College Faculty	6	5.4	0.3
		BOCES Staff	5	4.5	0.3
		(All Others)	8	7.1	0.4
Mohawk	58	Administrator (K-12)	22	37.9	1.2
		Classroom Teacher	19	32.8	1.0
		BOCES Staff	7	12.1	0.4
		(All Others)	9	15.5	0.5
Nassau	104	Administrator (K-12)	45	43.3	2.4
		Classroom Teacher	25	24.0	1.3
		BOCES Staff	24	23.1	1.3
		(All Others)	10	9.6	0.5
New York City	248	Administrator (K-12)	80	32.3	4.2
		Classroom Teacher	54	21.8	2.9
		Ancillary Staff	47	19.0	2.5
		College Faculty	29	11.7	1.5
		College Student	16	6.4	0.9
		(All Others)	22	8.8	1.2
Northeast	No Requests Submitted	----------	--	----	---

Table VI (Continued)

REGION BY USER

Regopm	Region Total	User	Requests by User	% of Region Total	% of State Total
Ontario-East	7	Administrator (K-12)	3	42.9	0.2
		Classroom Teacher	3	42.9	0.2
		(All Others)	1	14.2	0.0
Southern Tier	79	Classroom Teacher	37	46.9	2.0
		Administrator (K-12)	15	19.0	0.8
		BOCES Staff	10	12.7	0.5
		Community Individual	8	10.1	0.4
		(All Others)	9	11.3	0.5
Suffolk	31	Administrator (K-12)	19	61.3	1.0
		Classroom Teacher	9	29.0	0.5
		(All Others)	3	9.7	0.2
Western	93	Administrator (K-12)	54	58.1	2.9
		Classroom Teacher	15	16.1	0.8
		BOCES Staff	7	7.5	0.4
		School Librarian	5	5.4	0.3
		Ancillary Staff	4	4.3	0.2
		(All Others)	8	8.6	0.4
State Education Dept. & Others	496	State Agency Staff	320	64.5	17.0
		Classroom Teacher	56	11.3	3.0
		College Student	40	8.1	2.1
		Administrator (K-12)	24	4.8	1.3
		College Faculty	14	2.8	0.8
		(All Others)	42	8.5	2.2

B. Region by Purpose

Table VII lists by rank order the purposes for which searches were requested by each of the service regions. Both Tables VI and VII give regional contacts an opportunity to examine the 'who' and 'what for' of their respective service efforts and can serve as a planning guide for determining future target population groups and purposes.

Table VII

REGION BY PURPOSE

Region	Region Total	Purpose	Requests by Purpose	% of Region Total	% of State Total
Capital District	286	College Course Work	85	29.8	4.5
		Classroom Instruction	51	17.8	2.7
		Curriculum Development	43	15.0	2.3
		Program Development	36	12.6	1.9
		Administrative Planning	30	10.5	1.6
		Evaluation	20	7.0	1.1
		Personal/Professional Development	17	5.9	0.9
		Proposal Development	4	1.4	0.2
Central	62	College Course Work	16	25.8	0.9
		Evaluation	12	19.4	0.6
		Curriculum Development	10	16.1	0.5
		Program Development	10	16.1	0.5
		Administrative Planning	9	14.5	0.5
		Personal/Professional Development	3	4.8	0.2
		Proposal Development	2	3.2	0.1
Central-Western	272	College Course Work	151	55.5	8.0
		Program Development	25	9.2	1.3
		Administrative Planning	24	8.8	1.3
		Curriculum Development	20	7.4	1.1
		Personal/Professional Development	17	6.3	0.9
		Classroom Instruction	13	4.8	0.7
		Proposal Development	12	4.4	0.6
		Evaluation	9	3.3	0.5
		(No Response)	1	0.3	0.1

Table VII (Continued)

REGION BY PURPOSE

Region	Region Total	Purpose	Requests by Purpose	% of Region Total	% of State Total
Lower Hudson	40	Administrative Planning	10	25.0	0.5
		Program Development	7	17.5	0.4
		College Course Work	6	15.0	0.3
		Classroom Instruction	5	12.5	0.3
		Curriculum Development	4	10.0	0.2
		Personal/Professional Development	4	10.0	0.2
		Proposal Development	3	7.5	0.2
		Evaluation	1	2.5	0.1
Mid-Hudson	112	Program Development	32	28.6	1.7
		Curriculum Development	28	25.0	1.5
		Administrative Planning	27	24.1	1.4
		College Course Work	7	6.3	0.4
		Classroom Instruction	6	5.4	0.3
		Evaluation	5	4.4	0.3
		Personal/Professional Development	5	4.4	0.3
		Proposal Development	2	1.8	0.1
Mohawk	58	College Course Work	15	25.9	0.8
		Administrative Planning	13	22.4	0.7
		Program Development	13	22.4	0.7
		Classroom Instruction	9	15.4	0.5
		Curriculum Development	4	6.9	0.2
		Proposal Development	3	5.2	0.2
		Personal/Professional Development	1	1.8	0.1

Table VII (Continued)

REGION BY PURPOSE

Region	Region Total	Purpose	Requests by Purpose	% of Region Total	% of State Total
Nassau	104	Administrative Planning	46	44.2	2.4
		Curriculum Development	16	15.4	0.9
		College Course Work	10	9.6	0.5
		Program Development	9	8.7	0.5
		Proposal Development	8	7.7	0.5
		Evaluation	7	6.7	0.4
		Classroom Instruction	6	5.8	0.3
		Personal/Professional Development	2	1.9	0.1
New York City	248	Program Development	96	38.7	5.1
		Curriculum Development	43	17.3	2.3
		College Course Work	36	14.5	1.9
		Administrative Planning	31	12.5	1.6
		Proposal Development	16	6.5	0.9
		Personal/Professional Development	14	5.7	0.7
		Classroom Instruction	6	2.4	0.3
		Evaluation	5	2.0	0.3
		(No Response)	1	0.4	0.1
Northeast	0	----------	--	----	---
Ontario-East	7	Curriculum Development	2	28.6	0.1
		Program Development	2	28.6	0.1
		Classroom Instruction	1	14.3	0.1
		Administrative Planning	1	14.3	0.1
		Evaluation	1	14.3	0.1

Table VII (Continued)

REGION BY PURPOSE

Region	Region Total	Purpose	Requests by Purpose	% of Region Total	% of State Total
Southern Tier	79	Classroom Instruction	23	29.1	1.2
		Administrative Planning	19	24.1	1.0
		Curriculum Development	14	17.7	0.7
		Program Development	11	13.9	0.6
		College Course Work	7	8.9	0.4
		Personal/Professional Development	5	6.3	0.3
Suffolk	31	Curriculum Development	12	38.7	0.6
		Administrative Planning	9	29.0	0.5
		Personal/Professional Development	4	12.9	0.2
		Classroom Instruction	2	6.5	0.1
		College Course Work	2	6.5	0.1
		Program Development	1	3.2	0.1
		Proposal Development	1	3.2	0.1
Western	93	Curriculum Development	32	34.4	1.7
		Administrative Planning	24	25.8	1.3
		Classroom Instruction	10	10.8	0.5
		Program Development	8	8.6	0.4
		College Course Work	7	7.5	0.3
		Proposal Development	5	5.4	0.3
		Evaluation	4	4.3	0.2
		Personal/Professional Development	3	3.2	0.2

Table VII (Continued)

REGION BY PURPOSE

Region	Region Total	Purpose	Requests by Purpose	% of Region Total	% of State Total
State Education Dept. & Others	4%	Administrative Planning	171	39.7	9.1
		Program Development	69	14.0	3.7
		College Course Work	67	13.6	3.6
		Proposal Development	51	10.3	2.7
		Classroom Instruction	39	7.9	2.0
		Personal/Professional Development	37	7.5	2.0
		Curriculum Development	28	5.7	1.5
		Evaluation	27	5.5	1.4
		(No Response)	4	0.8	0.2

C. User by Purpose

Table VIII may prove to be the most useful of all the tables. It provides the rank order of purposes for each of the user groups. By comparing the information in this table with the information in Table III, one can see, for example, that even though college course work ranked second overall (Table III), 41% of the users were full-time, locally employed educators doing college course work.

An interesting observation that can be made from this table is the consistency in the mention of 'Program Development.' Ranked number three overall (see Table III), 'Program Development' is ranked in the top three by all but one user category (Classroom Teacher) and in that one case it ranks fourth. Again, the relationship between current use of the search service and potential use of the new program description data bank being developed through an NIE grant is apparent.

Table VIII

USER BY PURPOSE

User	User Total	Purpose	Requests by Purpose	% of User Total	% of State Total
Classroom Teacher	416	Classroom Instruction	124	29.8	6.6
		College Course Work	121	29.1	6.4
		Curriculum Development	84	20.2	4.5
		Program Development	37	8.9	1.0
		Personal/Professional Development	24	5.8	1.3
		Administrative Planning	13	3.1	0.7
		Evaluation	7	1.7	0.4
		Proposal Development	6	1.4	0.3
Administrator (K-12)	406	Administrative Planning	168	41.2	8.9
		Program Development	80	19.7	4.2
		Curriculum Development	75	18.5	4.0
		Evaluation	36	8.9	1.9
		College Course Work	17	4.2	0.9
		Proposal Development	14	3.5	0.7
		Classroom Instruction	10	2.5	0.5
		Personal/Professional Development	6	1.5	0.3
State Agency Staff	*325	Administrative Planning	145	44.6	7.7
		Program Development	59	18.2	3.1
		Proposal Development	47	14.5	2.5
		Evaluation	23	7.1	1.2
		Personal/Professional Development	21	6.5	1.1
		Curriculum Development	15	4.6	0.8
		Classroom Instruction	10	3.1	0.5
		College Course Work	4	1.1	0.2
		(No Response)	1	0.3	0.1

*This total differs from the Region Total (Table I, 479 requests). The Region Total consists of all requests processed by EPSIS staff interacting with a user. Only 325 (Table VIII) requests were for State Agency Staff.

Table VIII (Continued)

USER BY PURPOSE

User	User Total	Purpose	Requests by Purpose	% of User Total	% of State Total
College Student	257	College Course Work	228	88.7	12.1
		Program Development	10	3.9	0.5
		Proposal Development	6	2.3	0.3
		Curriculum Development	6	2.3	0.3
		Personal/Professional Development	4	1.6	0.2
		Classroom Instruction	1	0.4	0.1
		Evaluation	1	0.4	0.1
		(No Response)	1	0.4	0.1
College Faculty	126	Personal/Professional Development	27	21.4	1.4
		Curriculum Development	25	19.8	1.3
		Program Development	19	15.1	1.0
		Classroom Instruction	16	12.7	0.9
		Administrative Planning	15	11.9	0.8
		College Course Work	13	10.3	0.7
		Proposal Development	8	6.4	0.4
		Evaluation	3	2.4	0.2
Ancillary Staff	97	Program Development	36	37.1	1.9
		Curriculum Development	21	21.7	1.1
		Administrative Planning	18	18.5	0.9
		Evaluation	6	6.2	0.3
		Proposal Development	6	6.2	0.3
		Personal/Professional Development	4	4.1	0.2
		Classroom Instruction	3	3.1	0.2
		College Course Work	3	3.1	0.2

Table VIII (Continued)

USER BY PURPOSE

User	User Total	Purpose	Requests by Purpose	% of User Total	% of State Total
BOCES Staff	96	Administrative Planning	29	30.2	1.5
		Program Development	22	22.9	1.2
		Curriculum Development	13	13.5	0.7
		Proposal Development	12	12.5	0.6
		College Course Work	10	10.4	
		Personal/Professional Development	5	5.2	0.3
		Classroom Instruction	4	4.2	0.2
		Evaluation	1	1.0	0.1
School Librarian	51	Program Development	23	45.1	1.2
		Personal/Professional Development	11	23.6	0.6
		Administrative Planning	7	13.7	0.4
		Evaluation	3	5.9	0.2
		College Course Work	3	5.9	0.2
		Classroom Instruction	2	3.9	0.1
		Curriculum Development	2	3.9	0.1
College Administrator	36	Administrative Planning	9	25.0	0.5
		Program Development	9	25.0	0.5
		Evaluation	7	19.4	0.4
		Curriculum Development	6	16.7	0.3
		Personal/Professional Development	3	8.3	0.2
		Proposal Development	2	5.6	0.1

Table VIII (Continued)

USER BY PURPOSE

User	User Total	Purpose	Requests by Purpose	% of User Total	% of State Total
School Board Member	14	Program Development	5	35.7	0.3
		Administrative Planning	4	28.6	0.2
		Curriculum Development	4	28.6	0.2
		Evaluation	1	7.1	0.1
Community Group	11	Program Development	4	36.4	0.2
		Proposal Development	3	27.3	0.2
		Curriculum Development	2	18.1	0.1
		Administrative Planning	1	9.1	0.1
		Personal/Professional Development	1	9.1	0.1
Community Individual	11	Program Development	9	81.8	0.5
		Personal/Professional Development	2	18.2	0.1
Elem./Sec. School Student	2	Program Development	1	50.0	0.1
		Classroom Instruction	1	50.0	0.1
Other	36	College Course Work	10	27.8	0.5
		Administrative Planning	6	16.7	0.3
		Program Development	5	13.9	0.3
		Curriculum Development	4	11.1	0.2
		Proposal Development	4	11.1	0.2
		Personal/Professional Development	4	11.1	0.2
		Evaluation	3	8.3	0.2
No Response	4	----------	--	100.0	0.2

D. Content by Purpose

Table IX gives the rank order of purposes related to each of the larger office categories within the State Education Department. Although the information was available to provide a breakdown by Bureau or Unit, the resulting table would have been excessively large to present here. However, the information can be made available to any of the State Education Department offices who have a need for it.

Table IX

CONTENT BY PURPOSE

State Education Department Office	Content Related Requests	Purpose	Requests by Purpose	% of Content Related Requests	% of State Total
Office of Counsel	7	Administrative Planning	3	42.9	0.2
		Personal/Professional Development	2	28.5	0.1
		Classroom Instruction	1	14.3	0.1
		Curriculum Development	1	14.3	0.1
Office of Higher and Professional Education	77	Administrative Planning	20	26.0	1.2
		Program Development	18	23.4	1.0
		College Course Work	13	16.9	0.7
		Personal/Professional Development	8	10.4	0.4
		Evaluation	7	9.1	0.4
		Proposal Development	6	7.8	0.3
		Curriculum Development	3	3.8	0.2
		Classroom Instruction	2	2.6	0.1
Office of Instructional Services	646	Curriculum Development	144	22.3	7.6
		College Course Work	122	18.9	6.5
		Administrative Planning	110	17.0	5.8
		Program Development	105	16.1	5.5
		Classroom Instruction	104	16.1	5.5
		Personal/Professional Development	21	3.3	1.1
		Evaluation	20	3.1	1.1
		Proposal Development	19	2.9	1.0
		(No Response)	1	0.2	0.1

Table IX (Continued)

CONTENT BY PURPOSE

State Education Department Office	Content Related Requests	Purpose	Requests by Purpose	% of Content Related Requests	% of State Total
Office of Occupational and Continuing Education	85	Curriculum Development	18	21.2	1.0
		Program Development	16	18.8	0.9
		Administrative Planning	15	17.7	0.8
		Proposal Development	10	11.8	0.5
		Classroom Instruction	8	9.4	0.4
		College Course Work	8	9.4	0.4
		Personal/Professional Development	6	7.1	0.3
		Evaluation	3	3.5	0.2
		(No Response)	1	1.2	0.1
Division for Handicapped Children Services	230	College Course Work	95	41.3	5.0
		Curriculum Development	33	14.4	1.8
		Program Development	23	10.0	1.2
		Administrative Planning	21	9.1	1.1
		Classroom Instruction	19	8.3	1.0
		Personal/Professional Development	15	6.5	0.8
		Proposal Development	13	5.7	0.7
		Evaluation	11	4.7	0.6
Division of Intercultural Relations	20	Program Development	7	35.0	0.4
		Administrative Planning	6	30.0	0.3
		College Course Work	3	15.0	0.2
		Classroom Instruction	1	5.0	0.1
		Curriculum Development	1	5.0	0.1
		Personal/Professional Development	1	5.0	0.1
		(No Response)	1	5.0	0.1

Table IX (Continued)

CONTENT BY PURPOSE

State Education Department Office	Content Related Requests	Purpose	Requests by Purpose	% of Content Related Requests	% of State Total
Office of Educational Finance, Management, and School Services	283	Administrative Planning	99	35.0	5.2
		Program Development	57	20.1	3.0
		College Course Work	49	17.3	2.6
		Curriculum Development	23	8.1	1.2
		Personal/Professional Development	22	7.8	1.2
		Proposal Development	16	5.7	0.9
		Classroom Instruction	10	3.5	0.5
		Evaluation	7	2.5	0.4
Office of Research, Planning and Evaluation	391	Administrative Planning	99	25.3	5.2
		College Course Work	87	22.3	4.6
		Program Development	71	18.2	3.8
		Personal/Professional Development	32	8.2	1.7
		Evaluation	31	7.9	1.6
		Proposal Development	25	6.4	1.3
		Curriculum Development	23	5.9	1.3
		Classroom Instruction	21	5.4	1.1
		(No Response)	2	0.5	0.1
Office of Elementary, Secondary and Continuing Education Opportunity Programs	25	Administrative Planning	7	28.0	0.4
		Curriculum Development	4	16.0	0.2
		Program Development	4	16.0	0.2
		Classroom Instruction	3	12.0	0.2
		College Course Work	3	12.0	0.2
		Proposal Development	2	8.0	0.1
		Evaluation	1	4.0	0.1
		Personal/Professional Development	1	4.0	0.1

Table IX (Continued)

CONTENT BY PURPOSE

State Education Department Office	Content Related Requests	Purpose	Requests by Purpose	% of Content Related Requests	% of State Total
Office of Urban School Services	13	Administrative Planning	13	100.0	0.7
Office of Cultural Education	62	Proposal Development	16	25.8	0.9
		College Course Work	15	24.2	0.8
		Administrative Planning	13	21.0	0.7
		Program Development	10	16.2	0.5
		Classroom Instruction	2	3.2	0.1
		Curriculum Development	2	3.2	0.1
		Evaluation	2	3.2	0.1
		Personal/Professional Development	2	3.2	0.1
Regents Examination and Scholarship Center	38	College Course Work	10	26.3	0.5
		Evaluation	8	21.1	0.4
		Administrative Planning	7	18.4	0.4
		Program Development	6	15.8	0.3
		Curriculum Development	4	10.5	0.2
		Personal/Professional Development	2	5.3	0.1
		(No Response)	1	2.6	0.1
Other -- Non-classifiable	15	----------	--	----	0.8

E. User by Purpose by Grade Level

Table X is the only cross category table that is three dimensional and that includes grade level. Other three dimensional breakdowns could have been provided by the computer, but the sample size was not sufficiently large to make entries in the large number of cells meaningful.

Table X

USER BY PURPOSE BY GRADE LEVEL

User	Requests by User	Purpose/Grade Level	Requests Purpose/Grade Level	% of User Requests
Classroom Teacher	416	College Course Work/Elementary School	52	12.5
		College Course Work/Multi-level	43	10.3
		Curriculum Development/Secondary School	42	10.1
		Classroom Instruction/Secondary School	40	9.6
		Classroom Instruction/Elementary School	36	8.7
		(All Others)	203	48.8
Administrator (K-12)	406	Administrative Planning/Multi-level	97	21.9
		Curriculum Development/Multi-level	33	8.1
		Administrative Planning/Elementary School	29	7.2
		Program Development/Multi-level	28	6.9
		Program Development/Jr.-Mid.-Int. School	26	6.4
		(All Others)	193	47.5
State Agency Staff	325	Administrative Planning/Multi-level	118	36.3
		Program Development/Multi-level	40	12.3
		Proposal Development/Multi-level	36	11.1
		(All Others)	131	40.3
College Student	257	College Course Work/Multi-level	105	40.9
		College Course Work/Elementary School	62	24.1
		College Course Work/Higher Education	24	9.3
		(All Others)	66	25.7

Table X (Continued)

USER BY PURPOSE BY GRADE LEVEL

User	Requests by User	Purpose/Grade Level	Requests Purpose/Grade Level	% of User Requests
College Faculty	126	Personal-Professional Development/Multi-level	13	10.3
		Classroom Instruction/Multi-level	12	9.5
		Program Development/Multi-level	11	8.7
		Administrative Planning/Higher Education	10	7.9
		Curriculum Development/Higher Education	10	7.9
		Curriculum Development/Multi-level	9	7.2
		Personal-Professional Development/Higher Education	9	7.2
		(All Others)	52	41.3
Ancillary Staff	97	Program Development/Multi-level	23	23.7
		Curriculum Development/Secondary School	10	10.3
		Administrative Planning/Multi-level	10	10.3
		Curriculum Development/Multi-level	9	9.3
		(All Others)	45	46.4
BOCES Staff	96	Administrative Planning/Multi-level	22	22.9
		Proposal Development/Multi-level	12	12.5
		Program Development/Multi-level	11	11.5
		Program Development/Elementary School	7	7.3
		(All Others)	44	45.8
School Librarian	51	Program Development/Secondary School	9	17.7
		Personal-Professional Development/Jr.-Mid.-Int. School	8	15.7
		Program Development/Multi-level	7	13.7
		Program Development/Higher Education	4	7.8
		(All Others)	23	45.1

Table X (Continued)

USER BY PURPOSE BY GRADE LEVEL

User	Requests by User	Purpose/Grade Level	Requests Purpose/Grade Level	% of User Requests
College Administrator	36	Program Development/Higher Education	7	19.4
		Administrative Planning/Higher Education	6	16.7
		Evaluation/Higher Education	6	16.7
		(All Others)	17	47.2
School Board Member	14	Administrative Planning/Elementary School	3	21.4
		Curriculum Development/Secondary School	3	21.4
		(All Others)	8	57.2
Community Group	11	Proposal Development/Multi-level	3	27.3
		(All Others)	8	72.7
Community Individual	11	Program Development/Preschool	9	81.8
		(All Others)	2	18.2
Elementary/Secondary School Student	2	----------	--	----
Other	36	College Course Work/Multi-level	6	16.7
		Personal/Professional Development/Multi-level	4	11.1
		(All Others)	26	72.2
No Response	4	----------	--	----
	1888			

FUTURE NEEDS/ACTIVITIES

Expansion of Service

Since EPSIS was organized in 1972 one of its primary objectives has been to expand field access to its services. There are currently 32 such points. As of this writing, plans have already been made to train 6 new service contact personnel by the end of June 1976. The summer months also hold promise for additional training.

Ultimately, EPSIS would like to have at least one trained individual in each of the 46 BOCES and the five largest cities in the State. The increasing interest in the EPSIS development of two new data bases under its NIE grant should ensure an increase in service linkage throughout the State.

Attract Users

Some user groups who could benefit from information provided by EPSIS are utilizing the service very little. For example, school board members requested only 14 searches in the previous eight months. To increase usage by this group, EPSIS is planning an orientation to its services for new school board members who will be attending conferences in in Albany in July and September, 1976.

School librarians and school media specialists exist in an advantageous position for attraction of new users. Not only can they benefit themselves from information provided by EPSIS, but they can also act as an 'in house' central access point for other educators in their schools. Special efforts will be made, therefore, to service this group in the coming year. To this end, EPSIS has accepted an invitation to be on the program of the New York State Library Association Convention in October 1976.

Whenever possible, EPSIS will continue to attend various conferences and workshops of New York State teachers and administrators. In the past year EPSIS had insufficient travel funds to take advantage of all its opportunities to attend such conferences and workshops. However, teachers and administrators are the primary users of the EPSIS computer search service and special efforts should be made to ensure that these two groups do not slip in the usage rankings.

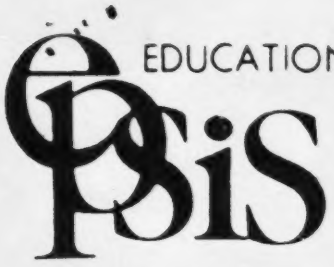
Other Support Services

The monthly volume of ERIC microfiche and abstract requests processed by the EPSIS unit continues to rise. Since ERIC is a document based system it is essential that users of the computer search service understand that the printout they receive is not the solution to their problem. Rather, it is a tool to help them to solve the problem. Used properly, the computer search is an intermediate step in the problem solving process.

A recent analysis of EPSIS search evaluation forms for the period January through May 1976 indicates that most users understand the intermediate nature of the computer search. Of 227 respondents, 148 (65%) indicated they planned to follow up the search by ordering ERIC microfiche from EPSIS or journal article reprints from a library. Another 61 respondents (27%) indicated they planned to use local ERIC collections to pursue their problem further.

EPSIS will continue to provide information support not only in terms of its current, ongoing services, but also in response to demands for other unified sources of information, for the development of new sources of information, and for the means to access them both. The development of two new data bases in the areas of program and teacher developed material descriptions is one such response. Previous to this development, there existed no single, unified source for this kind of information in New York State.

Continued proactive efforts of this nature by EPSIS in the future will ensure that the educational community in New York State will have a responsive State Education Department information support system to assist them in solving educational problems and improving educational practices.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND STUDIES INFORMATION SERVICE

ROOM 330
NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12234

User's Name _____ Date _____

School/Organization _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Concise Statement of Problem _____

_____

_____

_____

CODE (Use one code only for each category. See code lists on back of form)

REGION ___ (1-2) SEARCH # ___ (3-5) USER ___ (6-7) PURPOSE ___ (8-9) GRADE LEVEL ___ (10-11)

Search Terms/Logic: indicate if other than descriptor, such as: identifier (ID), free text term (FT), author (AU), institution (IN)

_____

___ _____

_____

and

_____

_____

_____

and/not

_____

_____

_____

_____

EPSIS USE ONLY

Date Received _____ PUB. TYPE (12-13) _____ Online ____

Date Processed _____ CONTENT (14-16) _____ Offline ____

Date Results Sent _____ CONTENT (17-19) _____ Total ____

NOTE: EPSIS Liaison - Forward white and yellow copies when initiating request.

White Copy - EPSIS Yellow Copy - Client Pink Copy - EPSIS Liaison

Search Request Codes

User - The individual who originally placed the request and who will ultimately make use of the information.

01 Administrator (k-12)
02 Ancillary Service Staff
03 BOCES Staff
04 Classroom Teacher
05 College Administrator
06 College Faculty
07 College Student
08 Community Group
09 Community Individual
10 Elem/Sec. School Student
11 School Board Member
12 School Librarian
13 State Agency Staff
14 Other

Purpose - The primary purpose for which the information will be used.

01 Administrative Planning
02 Classroom Instruction
03 College Course Work
04 Curriculum Development
05 Evaluation
06 Personal/Professional Development (non-college work)
07 Program Development
08 Proposal Development

Grade Level - The level of the information requested, not the level of the user.

01 Pre-School
02 Elementary School (k-6)
03 Junior High/Middle/ Intermediate School
04 Secondary School
05 Continuing Education (Age 16+; with or without high school diploma; non-credit)
06 Higher Education (credit)
07 Multi Level